(d) whether unusually high transactions have been found on specific counters in Delhi, Patna, Kolkata, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) During Pooja season special checks were conducted and 150 touts/unauthorized travel agents were apprehended and prosecuted.

(b) During last 10 months, 30 Railway Officials have been taken up under Discipline and Appeal Rules for connivance with touts/travel agents.

(c) Special checks were conducted by Zonal Railways including Northern Railway, on the instruction of Railway Board's Vigilance Department during the period August, 2009 to September, 2009.

(d) No such case has been reported.

Scheme to track trains through satellites

1807. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have recently approved a scheme to track trains through satellite;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed scheme;

(c) whether the scheme would be in the interest of railway commuters; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (d) A pilot project "Satellite Imaging for Rail Navigation (SIMRAN)" was approved in 2003, to be developed jointly by Research Designs and Standards Organization (RDSO) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur. The project has been jointly funded by Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). The projects can provide online train running information to public/passengers. Field trials have been conducted and results are being analysed.

Increase in train accidents

†1808. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in train accidents in the last year;

(b) whether their investigations have been completed;

(c) whether shortage of employees is one of the reasons;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the total number of vacant posts in the departments related to protection and surveillance of rail lines; and

(e) the details of the scheme to fill these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The number of consequential train accidents decreased from 194 in 2007-08 to 177 in 2008-09. Out of 177 consequential train accidents, 24 accidents have been inquired by the Commission of Railway Safety and the balance 153 were inquired by the Departmental Committees.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) About 41,000 vacancies are existing in the categories deputed primarily for maintenance of tracks. Steps are being taken to fill up these posts promptly as per laid down procedure.

Release of balance funds for various rail lines

1809. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Kotipalli-Narsapur; Nandyal-Yerraguntla; Kakinada-Pitampuram; Cuddapah-Banglore; Obulavaripalli-Krishnapatnam; Munirabad-Mahaboobnagar lines, indicating the year of their sanctioning, total cost, expenditure incurred, amount sanctioned, year-wise and the balance fund required for each of these projects;

(b) the reasons for delay in releasing the balance funds; and

(c) by when the balance funds are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (c) The details of projects alongwith their year of sanction, total anticipated cost, expenditure incurred upto 31.03.09, outlay provided for 2009-2010 is as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Year of Sanction	Total Cost	Expenditure incurred upto 31.3.09	Outlay in Budget 2009-10	Balance Funds required
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Kotipalli-Narsapur New line	2000-01	695.00	9.42	0.01	685.57
2.	Nadyal-Yerraguntla New line	1996-97	429.49	207.12	51.00	171.37
3.	Kakinada-Pithapuram New line	1999-2000	85.51	0.01	0.01	85.49